



Hongkong Daily Press

ESTABLISHED 1857

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The Price of Eye Strain
IS BLURRED AND MISTY SIGHT
HEADACHES
AND GENERAL UNCOMFORT
WEAR SUITABLE GLASSES
N. LAZARUS,
Optician,
12, Queen's Road C. H.

No. 20,123 號三十百一第萬二第 日三初月一十年戌庚 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 1922. 三拜禮 號十二月二十年一十國民華中 PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH

INTIMATION

ERVEN LUCAS BOLS.

VERY OLD SUPERIOR GENEVA
(IN STONE CRUCHONS)
DRY GIN (LONDON STYLE)
BLACKBERRY BRANDY
CREME DE CACAO
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PEAK TRAMWAY CO. LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.	
7.00 a.m.	7.10 a.m.
7.30 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. every 15 minutes	
8.00	10.00
10.00	11.00
11.30	12.30 p.m.
12.30 p.m.	2.30
2.30	4.00
4.00	8.10
NIGHT CLAS.	
8.50 p.m.	9.00 p.m.
9.30 p.m. to 11.45 p.m. every 15 minutes	
11.45 p.m.	
SUNDAYS.	
7.00 a.m.	7.10 a.m.
7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. every 15 minutes	
9.30	11.00
11.15	12.00 noon
12.00 noon	1.00 p.m.
1.00 p.m.	4.00
4.00	8.10
NIGHT CLAS.	
8.50 p.m.	9.00 p.m.
9.30 p.m. to 11.45 p.m. every 15 minutes	
11.45 p.m.	

SPECIAL CARS by arrangement at the Company's Office, Alexandra Building, Des Voeux Road.
Season and punch tickets available for all cars, not already full, running at the time stated in the Company's time-table, but not for special cars, can be obtained on application at the Company's Office. No season ticket will be issued until payment therefor has been made in Bank Notes or Cheques or Compro Order represented Bank Notes.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

TIME TABLE.

On and after FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1922, until further Notice.
(All previous Time Tables cancelled.)

DOWN TRAINS	
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Due regard to food values is essential to health and consequent contentment.

A delicious custard made with good, sweet milk and the delicately flavoured

Brown & Polson's Custard Powder

is agreeable and nourishing. It adequately replaces cream as an accompaniment to stewed or tinned fruits.

Made in Scotland of the best ingredients only, by Brown & Polson, Ltd., the firm with over 65 years' reputation for excellence. Packed in tins, each containing 1-lb. net.

As reliable as Brown & Polson's Corn Flour.




THE PROBLEM OF CHINA. REVIEW OF BERTRAND RUSSELL'S BOOK.

[BY SIR JOHN JORDAN, G.C.M.G.]

Sir John Jordan, who for many years was H.M.'s Minister at Peking, has written for *The Observer* the following interesting review of the Hon. Bertrand Russell's recently published book entitled "The Problem of China."

Books by foreign writers about China may be roughly divided into two classes: those written by people who have an intimate knowledge of the country, but who have no great gift of literary expression, and those written by persons who have only a passing acquaintance with China and its problems, but whose training and experience enable them to take full advantage of their limited opportunities. The latter class of works is generally far the most readable, and this book is, certainly one of the most interesting and instructive of its class. Mr. Bertrand Russell has brought keen observation and great intellectual power to bear upon the tangled Chinese problem, and the result is a book which will give the question an assured place in the literature of the West. I am in profound disagreement with the author in his views of Western civilisation and its effect upon the East, but the high estimate which he has formed of the Chinese character and Chinese culture, while perhaps rather favourable at times, accords on the whole with my own experience. He does not think that the Chinese are inscrutable, and does not believe in the myth of the "subtle Orientals." Neither do I, and a closer acquaintance with them, instead of altering my opinion as he thinks possible, would probably have confirmed his conviction that the Chinese and English have many points in common. But I confess that, much as I admire the Chinese, I have never, perhaps through my own lack of appreciation, detected in him a love of art or the "unconscious effort after beauty." On the contrary, I can recall many happy hours spent with coolies sitting with their backs to beautiful bits of scenery and discussing interminably upon the cost of food, the eternal want of cash, and all the other ills of life.

Admirable summaries of the early history of China and Japan prepare the reader for an understanding of the modern problems of the Far East. With these the author deals in a spirit of fearless criticism, his bitter, tinged throughout by his bitter hostility to all things Western. China, he says, produces everything its people require, and we forced trade upon them solely for our own benefit, giving them in exchange only things which they would do better without. This might have been true at one time if it does not account for the fact that the Chinese continue to take foreign imports far in excess of their exports, and that the figures which he himself gives show an ever-increasing demand for foreign goods.

He is right in considering the Chinese good merchants, but the difference which he sees between their methods and those of Europeans is more, in my opinion, than real, as a little acquaintance with Treaty Port life would have taught him. He dwells upon the brutality of the West and the maltreatment of Chinese by white men, and in one passage we are given a lurid picture of what is going to happen fifty or a hundred years hence, when, as the result of a swayed proletariat, the spread of Christianity, and other sinister foreign influences, every white man throughout the Celestial Empire (etc.) will be massacred at a signal from some secret society.

All this need not be taken too seriously. The history of the relations between the Chinese and British merchants since the old Canton factory days up to the present moment has few parallels in any country for cordiality and mutual confidence, and is quite sufficient to dispel all these exaggerated apprehensions. And as regards Christianity, it is common knowledge that the missionary is respected, as never before, throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The author seems to think that the Bolsheviks may have a chance of being accepted as the liberators of Asia from "the tyranny of the Great Powers." He admits that Bolshevism, as a creed, is not likely to appeal to the Chinese, but sees a possible future before it as a political force. I have too much faith in the common-sense and inherent stability of the Chinese to believe that they will ever look to that quarter for their regeneration. Bolshevism has made little or no impression amongst the mass of the Chinese population, who live rooted to the soil in the enjoyment of an excellent system of land tenure.

The best chapters in the book are those which deal with the Chinese character and higher education. Here the author writes from personal knowledge, and his opinion on the educational question is entitled to great weight. He pays a tribute to the thoroughness and excellence of the work which the Americans are doing both in the Tsing Hua College and in the Rockefeller Hospital, and considers that their action in remitting the Boxer indemnity has abundantly justified itself, both politically and commercially. This is the view of all those who are conversant with the question, and it is regrettable that, as far as I am aware, it is not shared by the British Government. I am, however, inclined to think that the author had told us more of the progress of the New Thought Movement, of the spread of vernacular (pai hua) literature, and other kindred matters.

In dealing with the relations between China and Japan during the war, with the Washington Conference, and with industrialism in China, Mr. Bertrand Russell is on less solid ground, and is obliged to rely to a large extent on the testimony of others, some of them not

(Continued at foot of next column.)

ROUND THE WORLD IN 28-TON YACHT. THE CRUISE OF THE "AMARYLLIS."

To the average landsman, whose experience of long sea voyages usually begins and ends with passages on large and well-equipped steamers, the thought of circumnavigating the globe in a small wooden sailing vessel savours of a temptation of Providence. Yet the greater part of this long and arduous journey has just been accomplished comfortably and successfully by Lieut. G. H. P. Muhlbauer, R.N.R., in his yawl rigged yacht *Amaryllis*, which arrived at Penang recently, from Singapore.

The little vessel, says the *Penang Gazette*, was built by Messrs. Summers and Payne, Southampton. She is constructed of oak and oak and is only 28 gross tons. Her length on the water line is 52 feet and she is fitted with a 12 h.p. Sterling motor, which is only used in calms. The *Amaryllis* is surprisingly commodious for all her small proportions. Amidships, is a large well appointed and roomy saloon from which access to two cabins is easily gained. There is also an up to date lavatory and a toilet forward.

Lieut. Muhlbauer left Plymouth in September, 1920, with three friends. There were no paid hands aboard. The voyagers first called at various places in Spain and the Canary Islands, ultimately turning west across the Atlantic to Barbados, where they occupied twenty days. At Barbados, two of the three friends left the ship to take up positions ashore, and to make up his crew, the master shipped a young French lad. From Barbados the cruise was continued down to Trinidad and all round the West Indies to Jamaica, where the remaining friend left to join his wife, who had arrived before them by steamer from England. This left the owner with only the French boy and for luck of anybody else he engaged an Indian, after which he set sail for Panama. He made the journey through the Canal and called at the Galapagos, making them the jumping off place for a long and interesting tour through the islands of the South Pacific. The next call made was at the Marquesas Islands and after a short stay there, the cruise was continued through the Low Archipelago. Calls were made at Tahiti, Nantong, Cook Islands, Tonga Islands, Suva, in the Fiji Islands, and New Caledonia. From New Caledonia a good passage was made to Australia where a brief spell was spent before proceeding to Auckland. There Mr. C. R. Taggart joined the vessel, which returned to New Caledonia, calling at Noumea. The New Hebrides, Banks Is., Solomon, Papua and Thursday Island were visited in turn, and the remainder of the voyage to Penang made via Timor, Java and Singapore.

Throughout the trip, excellent weather was experienced. Several bad storms were encountered, but the little vessel behaved perfectly. The natives of the South Sea Islands, the travellers found to be very obliging and in only one instance when they called at the New Hebrides, did they find anything in the nature of hostility towards them and even that was more a display of ill-natured tolerance.

Lieut. Muhlbauer expects to be in Penang for a week or two and will not attempt to complete his long journey until the north-east monsoon breaks. So far, the voyage, which as has already been said, is merely a leisurely pleasure trip, has taken two years and two months to complete. It might be added that another change was made in the ship's company at Singapore. The Indian left for Australia and his place was taken by a Belgian from an American vessel.

OXFORD SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY.

A large attendance at the Convocation of Oxford recently passed without a division a decree accepting Sir William Dunn's offer of £100,000 to establish a School of Pathology, also £20,000 to adapt the existing Department of Pathology as a future School of Pharmacology. The decree proposed that a site of three acres in the parks near South Parks road should be allocated for the new school.

impartial witnesses. China, he admits, did better at Washington than might have been expected, but he sees little hope that the decisions reached by the Conference will permanently benefit China. I take a much more hopeful view of the results achieved at Washington, and see no reason to believe that Japan will resort to the reprehensible measures he suggests to avoid carrying out her promises. Nothing has, so far, occurred in the subsequent negotiations in regard to Shantung to justify such a charge, and by withdrawing her garrison from Hankow Japan has gone further towards meeting the Chinese than her Washington undertakings obliged her to do.

The concluding chapters which deal with industrialism and the Outlook in China are largely in the nature of a counsel of perfection. We are told that the three chief requisites for the rehabilitation of China are the establishment of an orderly Government, industrial development, under Chinese control, and the spread of education. I have myself preached similar doctrines for years, and am still looking forward to the fulfilment of my hopes. But I reject the statement that "all the Great Powers, without exception, have interests which are incompatible, in the long run, with China's welfare and with the best development of Chinese civilisation." The exact opposite is the case so far as Great Britain is concerned, and, if proof is needed, it is found in the fact that the resolutions in which the Associated British Chambers of Commerce in China annually outline their policy and aspirations invariably meet with the hearty concurrence of all classes of Chinese.

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Two—2,000 K.W. WILLIAMS & ROBINSON, England, standard horizontal three stage single flow steam turbines, 180-200 lbs. steam pressure, 1,500 revolutions per minute.

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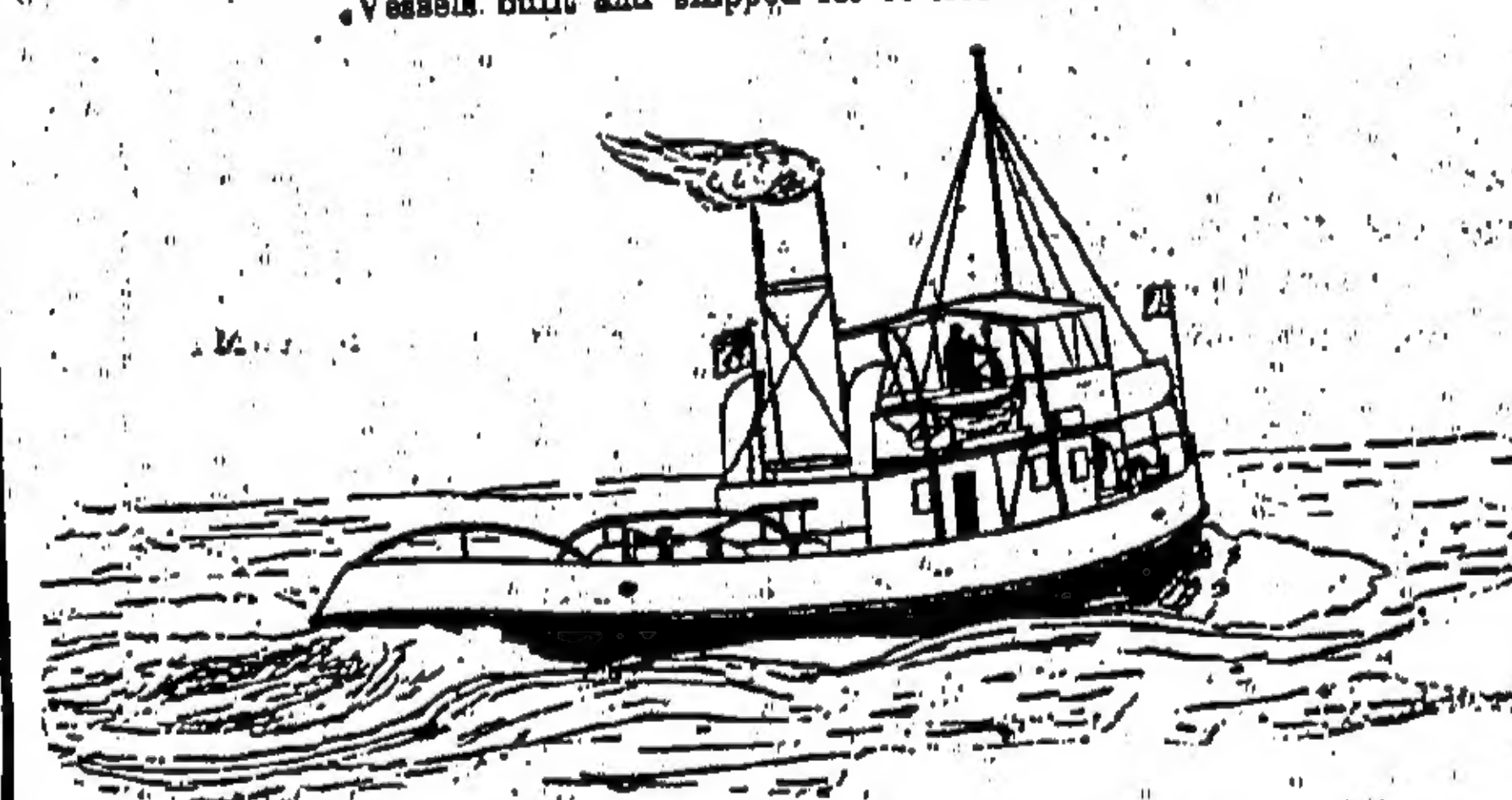
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[1920]

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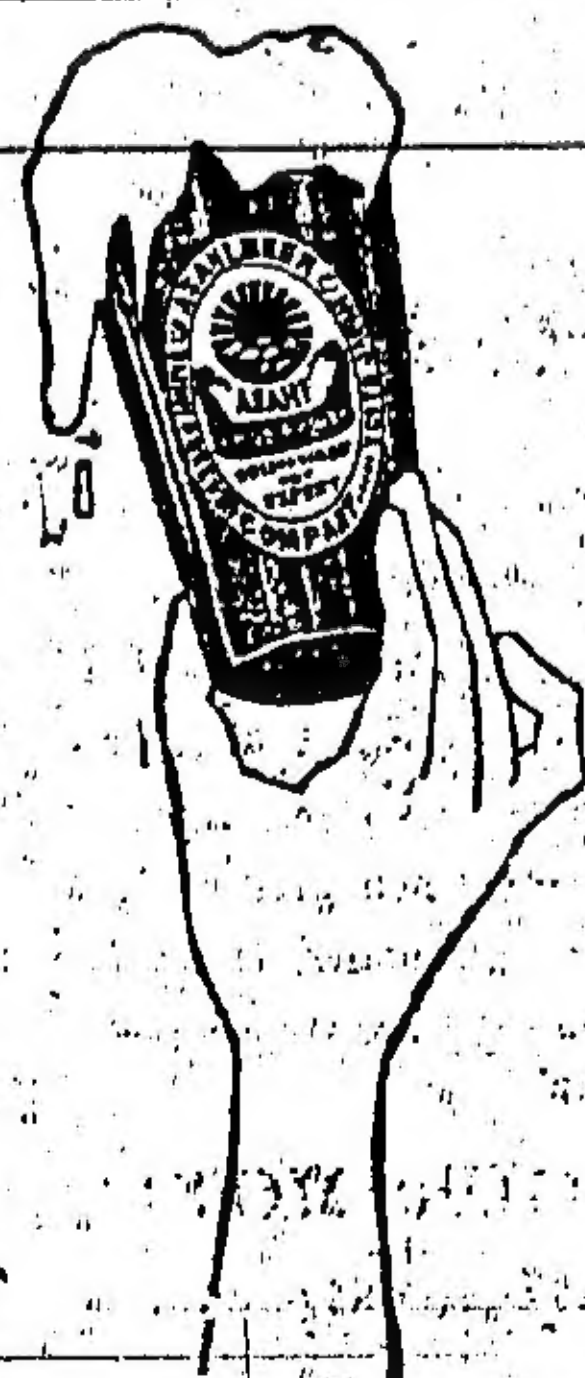
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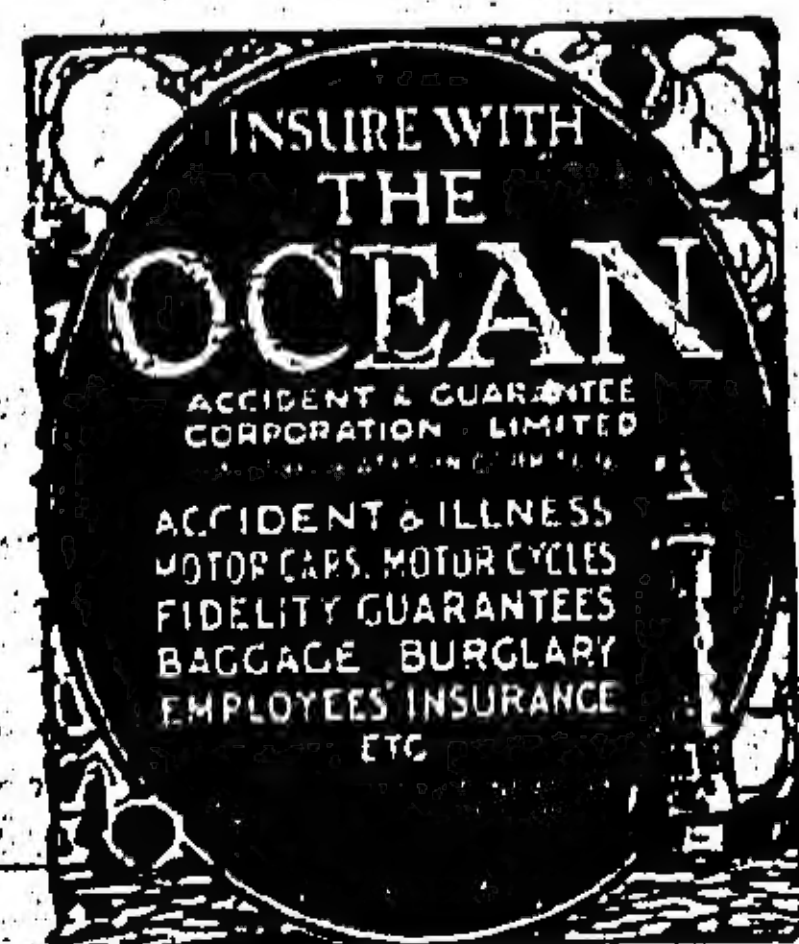
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FOOTBALL

MATCHES FOR TO-DAY.

UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

Division I.—Kick-off 4.15 p.m.
Tamar v. Ambrose, Navy "A" ground.
R.C.A. v. Titania, Sookunpoo "A"
ground.
Division II.—Kick-off 2.45 p.m.
Foxglove v. R.G.A., Navy "A" ground.
King's v. Magnolia, Sookunpoo "A"
ground.
Hawkins v. Durban, Navy "B" ground.

MATCHES FOR TO-MORROW.

HONGKONG LEAGUE.

Kick-off 4.15 p.m.
Titania v. Durban, St. Joseph's ground.
Hawkins v. Auxiliaries, Navy "A"
ground.
Police v. Marazion, H.K. Club ground.

LEAGUE TABLE—DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts.
King's Regt.	10	8	1	1	24	17
Hawkins	11	7	3	1	23	15
St. Joseph's	9	5	1	3	18	13
Ambrose	11	6	5	0	14	12
South China	11	5	5	1	18	11
Tamar	10	4	3	3	13	11
Kowloon	9	4	4	1	12	9
R.G.A.	9	2	6	1	12	5
Durban	7	2	4	1	7	5
Titania	5	1	3	1	7	3
Deputat	4	1	3	0	5	2
Carlisle	4	1	3	0	5	2
Police	8	0	6	2	4	2

LEAGUE TABLE—DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals	Pts.
King's Regt.	8	5	0	3	34	16
Hawkins	8	5	0	3	25	13
St. Joseph's	6	5	0	1	17	11
South China	6	5	0	1	19	11
United	6	4	2	2	14	10
Kowloon	7	3	4	0	14	6
Ambrose	7	3	4	0	9	6
Titania	6	3	3	0	9	6
Marazion	5	2	2	1	10	5
South China	7	2	4	1	8	5
University	5	2	3	0	10	4
Durban	5	1	4	0	6	2
Police	7	1	5	0	4	2
Bergate	2	0	2	0	2	0
Carlisle	4	0	4	0	4	0
Warders	7	0	7	0	2	0
Auxiliaries	6	0	6	0	2	0

CRICKET.

"WAYFOONG" v. H.K.C.C. 2nd XI.

"Wayfoong's" team for the match v. Hongkong C.C. 2nd XI, on Saturday next will be as follows:—B. D. Black, St. G. R. Clark, W. J. Clark, T. M. Leitch, H. A. Mabey, V. A. Mason, D. E. G. Nicholson, D. B. Peat, F. H. Penycroft (capt.), T. W. Riddell and O. Skinner.

H.K.C.C. 2nd XI v. KOWLOON 2nd XI.

The following will represent the H.K.C.C. 2nd XI. versus Kowloon 2nd XI, at Kowloon on Boxing Day, commencing at 10.30 a.m. sharp:—W. W. Mackenzie, W. Brackenridge, D. E. G. Nicholson, H. Spicer, J. D. Crawford, A. K. Mackenzie, D. B. Peat, M. M. Watson, H. E. Hollands, L. D. McNicoll, and G. H. Piercy.

TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB, ARMY AND NAVY.

The following have been selected to represent the Hongkong Cricket Club against the Army on Boxing Day, commencing at 10 a.m. on the Club ground. No play will take place on Xmas Day:—T. E. Pearce (capt.), G. B. Sayer, E. B. Reed, L. J. Davies, B. E. A. Webster, H. Owen Hughes, G. A. Chadwick, B. D. Evans, E. J. R. Mitchell, Rev. E. K. Quick, and A. A. Claxton.

The following have been selected to represent the Hongkong Cricket Club against the Navy on December 30th, at 2 p.m. and New Year's Day at 10 a.m. on the Club ground. Tiffin will be served in the Club Pavilion on December 30th, at 1 p.m.:—B. Hancock (capt.), T. E. Pearce, G. B. Sayer, L. J. Davies, B. E. A. Webster, H. Owen Hughes, B. D. Evans, E. J. R. Mitchell, Rev. E. K. Quick, A. A. Claxton, E. B. Reed, A. E. Wood (18th man).

THE GOLF CLUB MEETING.

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club, on Monday, about 70 out of 1,000 odd members were present. The president, the Hon. Mr. A. G. Stephen, occupied the chair, and we are officially informed that in "an interesting address" (which owing to the desire of the Committee for secrecy we are unable to reproduce) reviewed the events of the past year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Mr. A. G. Stephen was unanimously re-elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. A. B. Stewart was elected captain.

Messrs. T. W. Hill and B. Hancock did not seek re-election as members of the General Committee. As there were 13 nominations of members for this Committee, a ballot was taken, and resulted in the election of Messrs. J. B. Ross, E. K. Hallifax, A. K. Henderson, B. D. C. Morgan, G. S. Archbutt, W. E. Roberts, F. S. Harrison, H. U. Ireland and P. Tester.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

[BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR WILLIAM BENS-DAVIES)]

NINE MONTHS FOR BRIBERY.

A Chinese named Lam Sau was indicted on a charge of attempting to bribe a public servant, by offering him \$30.

The Jury were Messrs. G. V. Hughes (foreman), Chau Yue-ting, A. M. da Silva, H. J. B. Norton, E. A. Woodson, V. E. Gonsalves, and C. R. Van Krimpen. The Crown Solicitor (Mr. N. K. Holmes), said a police officer was on duty at the Kowloon Godowns on November 24th when he saw the prisoner coming towards the shore. The policeman suspected him and searched him. He felt some packages under the man's coat whereupon the prisoner took out \$30 worth of notes and offered them to the officer as "tea money." The policeman took both the money and the prisoner to the Water Police Station. The packages were discovered to contain cocaine to the amount of 66,000 official doses. The point at issue, said Mr. Holmes, was whether the accused did or did not attempt to bribe the officer.

The policeman was called and bore out the foregoing statement.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, and sentence of nine months' imprisonment was passed.

[BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. JUSTICE COMPERTZ.]

KIDNAPPING CHARGE.

A second Chinese was indicted on a charge of kidnapping Tam Woon, the twenty-year-old son of a Hongkong building contractor. Prisoner's name in this case was Tam Man-hi.

One Li Chung was given three years' imprisonment on the same charge on Monday.

The Jury were Messrs. A. Blair, C. A. dos Remedios, W. H. Whitely, H. Seth, E. T. Singer, V. Ribeiro, and J. Steer. Mrs. Campbell Prosser (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist) appeared on behalf of the accused.

The Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, K.C.), told the story of the kidnapping as related in yesterday's *Hongkong Daily Press*. It appeared that the prisoner now at the bar had known the youth Tam Woon all his life, and had been employed by the boy's father at one time as a clerk. Prisoner's father and grandfather had also been employed by the firm. Prisoner introduced Tam to one of the other conspirators, and persuaded him to go to Canton where they took him to a village on the railroad. Here they got out to go for a walk, and on the road were set upon by armed men who held Tam to ransom, only letting him go on payment of \$2,700 from his father. It was his contention that the whole thing was pre-arranged.

Corroborative evidence was given by Tam (the victim) who said he was twenty years of age and a married man.

After further evidence was taken the case was adjourned.

ALLEGED SMUGGLER BEFORE THE COURT.

BIG OPIUM SEIZURE ON A WHARF.

A well dressed Chinese, in European clothes, and a woman, both from India, were charged before Mr. Wood at the Magistracy, yesterday, with the unlawful possession of 60lbs. of raw opium, valued at \$1,462.

The two defendants were arrested on Leung Wing Wharf as they were landing from a steamer from Calcutta. The opium was found in their luggage and some hidden in their clothing.

Mr. C. A. Russ appeared for the defendants and said that the male defendant pleaded guilty. He applied for the charge to be withdrawn against the woman.

The Magistrate agreed and the woman was discharged. A conviction was recorded against the man, but sentence was not passed on the application of Mr. Russ, who asked for the case to be put back until this afternoon.

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ROBBERIES.

SENSATIONAL AFFAIR AT BAY VIEW.

EUROPEAN HOUSE ENTERED: LADY HELD UP.

A sensational robbery account is contained in yesterday's police report. A lady named Mrs. H. Allan, of No. 3, Morton Terrace, Bay View, has reported to the Police that at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, while she was reading in her sitting room, four men armed with revolvers and daggers rushed into the room. One of the robbers seized her by the throat and pressed his hand over her mouth. She demanded the safe key. The terrified lady replied that she did not possess a key. Mrs. Allan was placed on a couch and one of the men kept guard over her whilst the other three entered the bed-room and opened up several drawers and the wardrobe, emptying the contents of these on to the floor. Nothing of value was found and the robbers returned to the sitting room where they ransacked the room, taking from a drawer in the cupboard several small pieces of jewellery valued at \$68.

The robbers spent about half-an-hour in the house. Directly they left Mrs. Allan raised the alarm and the Police from Bay View Station were called in. A search of the district for the robbers proved unsuccessful.

ARMED ROBBERY AT YAUMATI.

An armed robbery at No. 281, Shanghai Street, Yaumati, took place at 11.15 p.m. on Monday. The wife of the master of the shop was serving sausages to a man when the customer was joined by two other men. Becoming suspicious the woman rushed to a cubicle at the rear where her husband lay asleep. The robbers followed and the safe-keys taken from his girdle.

The contents of the safe, \$2,000, were taken as well as \$70 worth of jewellery, belonging to the woman. The robbers got away with their haul.

AT THE WESTERN MARKET.

On Sunday night a robbery took place at the Western Market. A stall-holder, named Chan Him states, that whilst he was asleep three men entered the stall, one of whom had a revolver. The stallholder was relieved of the safe key. The safe was opened and \$698 in notes and cash were extracted. Before leaving the stall, the robbers bound and gagged their victim.

SHANGHAI CHINESE AND THE JUDICIARY.

In view of the agitation for the abolition of extrajurisdictionality, it is interesting to observe that in connection with a case which has recently been occupying the Nantao District Court at Shanghai, "several Chinese public bodies" condemn the procedure and are calling among other things for "the organisation of a better judiciary."

But in the same issue of the *Shanghai Mercury* which reports the agitation summarised in the foregoing paragraph we find the following:—

The "Mixed Court question" continues to be a subject for agitation amongst the Chinese, and telegrams and communications have been sent at regular intervals to the Foreign Office at Peking, pressing for an early restoration of the Court to China. Local "native merchants" have taken up the agitation, declaring themselves to be "gravely concerned with the present system." It is also declared that in native circles the Mixed Court, as at present constituted, does not enjoy the respect and confidence of the Chinese community.

The Nanking Road Union has now dispatched a telegram to the Waichiao, urging the restoration of the Mixed Court to China. The telegram reads in part as follows:—

"With reference to the question of the restoration of the International Mixed Court to China, we are anxiously awaiting the decision of the Diplomatic Body. We desire to have the Court returned to China at an early date."

"We beg of you to take up the matter with the least possible delay and press for an early restoration, on the strength of the stipulations contained in the Yang King Pao Regulations."

Meetings have been arranged to discuss this matter and the various speakers make it a point to assert that the present system is derogatory to the prestige of the Chinese.

So far, the local Chinese bodies have not received any information from the Foreign Office at Peking in regard to the progress of the negotiations with the Diplomatic Body, but it is reported here that the latter have expressed their disapproval of any early reversion to the system existing prior to the Revolution in 1911.

WORLD THEATRE

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3 DAYS ONLY.

5.15 and 9.15 p.m.

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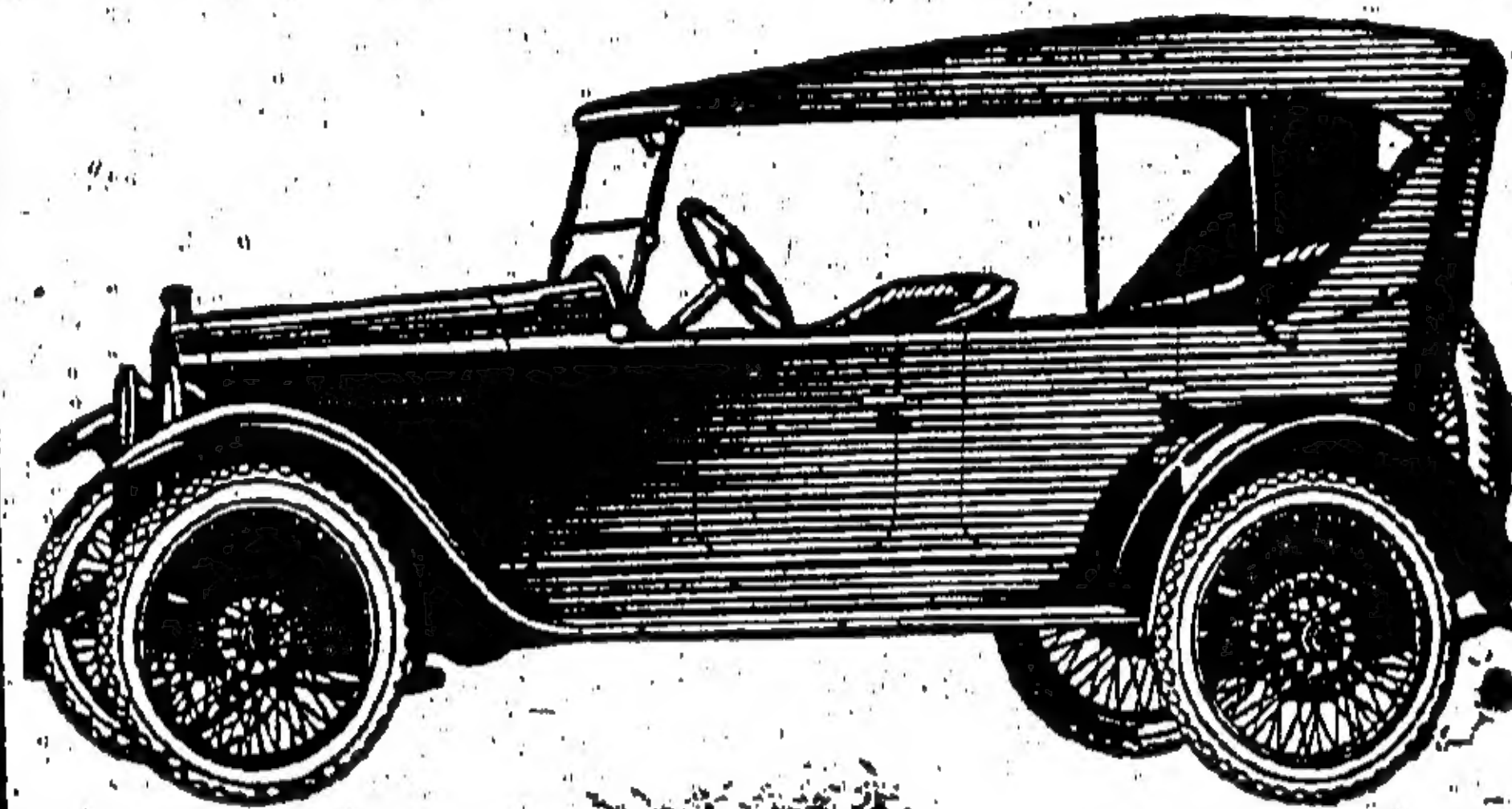
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SIR ROBERT HO TUNG'S SIXTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY.

ELABORATE FESTIVITIES

SIR ROBERT GIVES \$100,000 FOR AN INDUSTRIAL HOME;
LADY HO TUNG OFFERS TO DEFRAY THE COST
OF A DOGS' HOME.

Among the Chinese people, as many of our readers will probably be aware, greater significance is attached to birthdays falling in the first year of a decade than to others, for a person is then considered "to enter a new decade." And the older a man grows the greater is the importance attached to birthdays which mark the entrance on a new decade. These remarks are made in order to explain in a measure the special importance attaching to the celebration of the birthday of Sir Robert Ho Tung, who invited some 800 of his friends to meet him at his residence, "Idlewild," in Seymour Road, yesterday afternoon.

The house itself was one lavish mass of colour. Gorgeous scrolls lined the walls, the black, artistic Chinese characters standing boldly out against the gold. Wherever one looked the eye was greeted by the sight of a representation of an old man, with high bulging brow, long white beard and flowing robe; he smiled on the gathering benignly from handsome scrolls or from the delicate curves of porcelain vases; or he stood, a figure of gold or bronze, on wooden stands. The image was a figure from Chinese mythology representing the God of Longevity, whose care it is to watch over the aged. On one stand there stood a plate of huge golden peaches, the image of the fruit of life, to eat which is said to ensure a long and prosperous old age.

THE PRESENTS.

The presents which were on view were too numerous to enumerate in detail, but the whole collection must have been extremely valuable, and included some magnificent pieces of silk, silver and gold and pottery work.

An honourable tablet, the gift of the President of China (H.E. Li Yuan Hung) refers to Sir Robert as "The Leading Light of the Lo-Yang Association." The "Lo-Yang Association," also known as the "Lo-yang Association of Aged Gentlemen"—founded by the famous statesman and historian, Ssi Ma Kwang, and twelve other retired official colleagues—was modelled on "the Association of the Nine Aged," formed by the celebrated poet Pu Chu. According to its regulations, only very old retired ministers were eligible for membership and they were rated according to age rather than official rank. The activities of the Association consisted mainly in literary pursuits over a glass of wine. This Association has been alluded to in their poems by famous poets such as Su Tung Po, Wang Wei, Chang Chu, and Tao Tzu.

A beautiful set of sixteen scrolls, telling the story of Sir Robert's life, in Chinese characters, on a gold background, was a present from Mr. Hsu Shih Ch'ang, (who for some years was President of China) and a number of other prominent statesmen of China. A pair of beautifully worked scrolls was sent by Mr. Chu Chi Chin. There was one also from Mr. Wan Kai Hing, Grand Master of Ceremonies to the Peking Presidency. Another interesting present was a tablet dedicated to Longevity from Mr. Kang Yu Wei, once well-known as a reformer, who exercised a great influence upon the last reigning Emperor in China. Mr. Kang is acknowledged to be the best living writer of Chinese. A poem on the life of Sir Robert inscribed on a silk scroll was the present of Mr. Liang Shih Yi.

A beautiful mirror in a carved wooden frame, with a picture of the God of Longevity painted on the glass, was the gift of the twenty-four trades associations in Hongkong, whilst an exquisitely worked silver incense burner was given by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Other presents were a pair of handsome scrolls done by Luk King Poi, sent by H.E. Chan Chik Yu, the Civil Governor of Canton; a scroll poem by General Lung Chi Kwang; a scroll poem from H.E. Hsiung Hsi Lung; and a scroll from Dr. W. W. Yen (until lately Minister of Foreign Affairs).

THE STORY OF SIR ROBERT'S LIFE.

The story of Sir Robert Ho Tung's career is related on a beautiful set of sixteen scrolls, presented by Mr. Hsu Shih Ch'ang, a former President of China and the following other distinguished men: Ex-Premier W. W. Yen; Ex-Premier Wong Ta Hsieh; Ex-Premier Wong Chung Hui; Ex-Premier Hsiung Hsi Lung; Ex-Premier Chiang Chao Chung; Acting Premier C. T. Wang; Ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Wellington Koo; Ex-Minister of Interior, Chu Chi Chien; Ex-Minister of Finance, Chen Chin Tao; Ex-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Wang Nai Pin; Ex-Vice-Minister of Communications, Hsu Shih Ch'ang; Chancellor of the Ministry of Communications, Hsu Hsiung; Admiral Tsai Ting Kan; Marshal Lung Chi Kwang; Director-General of Education, Chow Chao Hsiang; Chief Secretary to the President, Yao Han Hsiang; Ex-Chief Secretary to the President, Wu Chi Sun; Military Attaché to the President, General Hu Jen Chun; Military Attaché to the President, Lieut-General Tang Chung Yen; Secretary to the President, Liu Chang Hsiu; Secretary to the President, Sun Chi Lien; Secretary to the President, Yuan Keh Huan; Councillor to the President, S. P. Hung; Chief Secretary to the Political Restoration Commission, Wen Shung Fei; President to the C.M.N.S.C., George Mark; Dr. Wu Lien Teh; Prince Yu Lang; Grand Master of Ceremony, Huang Kai Wen; and many others.

Following is a translation of the biographical sketch which is inscribed in Chinese characters on a gold background.

The 19th of December, 1922, being the sixty-first anniversary of the birthday of Sir Robert Ho Tung, celebrations will be held at his residence to commemorate the happy event, when the gentry and the literati from both within and without the Colony, with eminent people of all professions, will be present and deliver their panegyrics upon our venerable knight. In view of the fact that several persons have asked us for a full, authentic account of Sir Robert, and that we have, through personal intimacy for many years, acquired a fuller knowledge of his past career than any other person, we publish the following sketch of Sir Robert's life for the benefit of those who may need it in preparing eulogizing speeches.

Born a native of Hongkong, in Kwangtung, Sir Robert is a British subject. Deprived of paternal blessings by the untimely death of his father, he with his seven brothers and sisters became dependent for livelihood and education upon his mother—a mother whose rigorous disposition led her to educate her children by all the means she could master.

While still young, Sir Robert showed great precocity. He was particularly clever in anticipating the wishes of his mother, carrying them out before they were expressed. Thus he lessened the anxiety of his mother and enhanced her happiness, at the same time creating an atmosphere of the greatest harmony among his brothers and sisters. His filial and fraternal piety drew admiration from near as well as remote relatives.

The first education Sir Robert received was in Chinese, and from the outset he paid particular attention to broad principles rather than minutiae of the classics. In weekly and monthly examinations and in the test of propounding difficult passages he always headed his class. When he showed an inclination to change his course and study the English language, his school-master persuaded him to continue and finish his course in Chinese, promising free tuition.

Thus, even in his childhood days, the public had already entertained a very high opinion of him. Completing his education in Chinese, he entered Queen's College, then known as the Central School, where he took keenly to all the studies, devouring with avidity all the classical volumes on Western History and Literature that he could lay his hands on. His vast stock of knowledge affords true testimony to the fact that in him the Eastern and the Western loves are harmoniously combined. After passing through the several classes at the Central School he took up the post of an assistant in the Canton Customs. In the discharge of his duties he displayed diligence and dexterity, and gained the implicit confidence and dependence of his superiors. He did not remain long in the Customs, for he was soon after requested by his relatives to resign his office and return to Hongkong to assist in the management of the Chinese department of the shipping offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. At this time, though he was still under age, he showed great capacity for assuming high responsibilities. During the several years of his office he succeeded in extending his business to Shanghai, Chekiang, Kiuksang, Hankow, Chetoo, Tientsin, Newchang, Java, Manila, Iloilo and other ports. The devices he planned were shown to be far-reaching, and in the

ensuing year he was requested to open branches for Chinese business in Hongkong and acted as the agent for the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., and the Canton Marine Insurance Co. These offices were utilised by Sir Robert as channels for the display of his aptitudes, capabilities and unbounded energy. This led to his being promoted to the office of chief comprador of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Greater and more important grew his responsibilities, culminating in the colossal business which he later built up out of his previous experiences in the world of commerce and trade. He had by now acquired a very keen insight into the business activities of the times, and these were recognised by many public companies who enlisted his co-operation and advice on their Boards, such as:—The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd., Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Canton Marine Insurance Co., Ltd., Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Hongkong Tramway Company, Ltd., Hongkong Electric Light Co., Ltd., Hongkong Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., Hongkong Kien Hing Knitting Co., Ltd., North China, Feng Tien Pei Pui Coal Co., Manchurian Forestry Company, and Tientsin Wan Fung Flour Mills.

Occupying such a position in the commercial world, Sir Robert Ho Tung displayed business abilities which might well serve as models of perfection for his contemporaries. He is scrupulously honest and fair, treating his fellowmen with faithfulness and consideration, and managing his affairs with diligence and success. He contemns all questionable methods of money-making, and never benefits himself at the expense of others. By following the main road of strict probity and by a steady process of accumulation, he spread his credit throughout the length and breadth of the world, and thereby acquired possession of the resources of land and sea.

As his wealth increased he began to pay great attention to the principles of distribution with a view to utilising his riches for promoting the welfare of society at large. Consequently, whenever calamities occurred such as flood disasters, famine, and other wide-spread distresses, we were sure to find Sir Robert coming forward with handsome contributions for the relief of the sufferers. The total amount he has subscribed cannot be estimated. We can, however, mention a few of his munificent deeds.

Some years ago, when there was a shortage of rice in the Colony and the population suffered acutely, Sir Robert contributed a large sum towards a fund for importing rice from abroad to be supplied in the form of rations to the poor.

In the succeeding years, when the population of Kwangtung suffered from floods and when Northern China was harried by famines and droughts and when the life of Swatow was disturbed by typhoons, it was Sir Robert who came to the front, and, with his pecuniary assistance, saved the lives of many a sufferer. His efforts in relieving man's distress have been such as to draw admiration from every quarter.

There are other righteous deeds which must be mentioned here to the eternal fame of our knight. Since the Kap Ng Year (1849) Hongkong has been periodically visited by plague. The Tung Wah Hospital not then being spacious enough for the accommodation of all the plague-stricken patients, an ordinance was passed requiring all patients to be transferred to the European Isolation Hospital. This was very inconvenient to the Chinese on account of the different modes of life they live. Feeling compassion for them, Sir Robert took it upon himself to subscribe towards the establishment of the Tung Wah Hospital annex with separate wards for plague-infected patients. For this the whole Colony should be greatly indebted to him.

Our memory of his patriotic act in providing aeroplanes and ambulances during the Great War is still green. The Hongkong Government, in order to raise a fund for the Allies, increased the tax on dwelling-houses by seven per cent. The law required tenants to pay the taxes, but Sir Robert, whose landed property was very extensive, bore the tax on his own shoulders and so relieved his tenants of the heavy burden.

During the time of the seamen's strike, Sir Robert underwent a considerable amount of exertion in endeavouring to effect an amicable settlement. But the dispute could not be brought to a close because of the fact that the half-pay demanded by the seamen was too great. At the critical moment Sir Robert again came forward, and on his offer to pay the difference, the strike was happily terminated. The officials and the seamen are all obliged to him for this timely offer. So great are his charitable deeds that his reputation for benevolence spread even to most distant countries.

Having an indefatigable spirit for philanthropic work, he has devoted particular attention to the encouragement of education. He gave large donations to his alma mater, Queen's College, for its splendid library. The very high esteem in which he is entertained by the later sons of Queen's led to his being elected First President of Queen's College Old Boys' Association. His donations to the Hongkong University amounted to two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, and to show appreciation of his invaluable help, the University conferred upon him the honorary degree of "Doctor of Laws." Sir Robert has also established a school in Kowloon for European children, showing that he holds no prejudice of "all irrefragable" of race or nationality.

Not only has he a benevolent heart, but he is also gifted with a "seeing eye." The thing he looks at reveals not this or that face of it, but its innermost heart and its generic secret; it dissolves itself as in light

before him, so that he discerns the perfect structure of it.

Thus twenty years ago, during his sojourn in the United States, he suggested in the Press to the nations concerned that they should lend the Boxer indemnity to China for the purpose of constructing railways, on condition that the loan should be repaid by instalments out of the profits of the undertaking. Though the proposal was not adopted, yet we find that recently the former British Minister to China, Sir John Jordan, in a speech before the London General Chamber of Commerce, put forward the same proposal, showing that great minds are alike. There is no doubt that if this proposed scheme had materialized, the whole Chinese nation would have very greatly benefited by the vision of Sir Robert, who was the originator of the great idea.

Again, years ago, the Hongkong Government, in order to prevent burglary, required the local inhabitants to carry lanterns and night-passes while walking in the streets at night, threatening a severe punishment in case of breach. This was odious to the inhabitants. So Sir Robert argued the pros and cons of the law, with the result that it was repealed, to the great advantage of the inhabitants.

Equipped with these transcendent qualities, Sir Robert has risen to his present position in society. Even in high position he is always courteous and treats others with consideration, being especially ready to show appreciation of the learned and able men. Men of misfortune who repair to his portals for aid are never disappointed. Such wholehearted interest in his fellow-men has created for him a wide-spread fame, and some tender-hearted people actually shed tears when they recited the kind favours they have received from his hands, so great is their gratitude towards the Good Knight.

Such moral virtues and activities are, indeed, the mother of renown, and honour and glory are bound to attend him whose merits are great. Thus, on the one hand, the Chinese people have elected him to be Chairman of the Tung Wah Hospital and of the Po Leung Kuk, a member of the Committee of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, and the President of the Chinese Club; on the other hand, the British Government has appointed him to be a special Juror, a Justice of the Peace, a member of the Committee for the Investigation of Economic Conditions, and the Chairman of one of its sub-committees. While the British Government has honoured him with the Knight-Bachelorship, the Chinese Government has successively conferred upon him the Third and Second Class Order of the Excellent Crop, the Second Class Order of the Excellent Crop with brilliancy, and the first class Chiao Ho with Sash, besides appointing him to be delegate to America for the Investigation of Commercial Conditions during the war, Adviser to the President, and Adviser to the Chinese Delegation to the Washington Conference.

The eldest son of Sir Robert Ho Tung is Mr. Ho Shai Wing, commodore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. He is honest and loyal, and is a worthy son of such a father. His second son is Edward, now pursuing his education in the Hongkong University, and the third is Robert, now in Queen's College. His daughters are all diligent in their studies and exemplary in their conduct and live up to the instructions of their mother. This is but the beginning of the future prosperous generations.

Chu Kon has said in his famous dissertation "Longevity is of three kinds—longevity through royal favours, longevity through fame, and longevity through benevolence." Sir Robert Ho Tung may be truly said to be the embodiment of all these three.

Let us all join in our chorus of praise of our great Sir Robert Ho Tung, our venerable knight. May prosperity attend him and his family for ever and ever!

THE RECEPTION.

Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung received their many guests as they arrived. Sir Robert was wearing his many decorations including the latest and most distinguished, the First Class Chiao Ho (or "Order of the Excellent Crop") with Sash, which has only this month been conferred upon Sir Robert by Presidential Mandate.

In the grounds contiguous to the house a spacious Chinese theatre, of the usual gaily decorated type had been erected for the occasion, capable of seating over 500 people. Foliage festooned the walls and hung across the room, with myriads of pretty little electric lights peeping cunningly from between the leaves. Huge scrolls adorned the sides, whilst the predominating colour everywhere was red, with a generous dash of gold. Red is a colour greatly favoured by the Chinese because it is regarded as a token of luck and good fortune. At one end of the room was a generously proportioned stage, upon which the Yau Shu Min troupe of players gave a number of Chinese plays including a sketch on "Longevity," and the mythical story of the poor lad who sold himself into slavery to pay his father's funeral and was rewarded for his filial piety by marrying a lady, by whom he had a son, and later gained great honour in the land. The European dresses and gay scenery were particularly fascinating to the European ladies, though it is to be feared that the foreign members of the audience found it difficult to fully appreciate the Chinese music and, few, of course, were sufficiently acquainted with the Chinese language to follow what was being said or sung on the stage.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mr. R. E. SMITH has taken over charge of the HONGKONG BRANCH of the Business of the Undermentioned as from the 15th Inst. LIGGETT & MYERS TOBACCO CO. CHINA. [1923]

THE EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA & CHINA TELEGRAPH CO. LTD. (INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND.) HONGKONG STATION.

CURRENCY CHARGES ON TELEGRAMS.

SENDERS OF TELEGRAMS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that from the 1st JANUARY, 1924, further Notice, the Charge for Telegrams will be collected at the Rate of Dollars 0.37 to equal Franc 1.00. M. E. F. AIRY, Superintendent. Hongkong, 20th December, 1923. [1924]

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH CO. LTD. HONGKONG STATION.

CURRENCY CHARGES ON TELEGRAMS.

SENDERS OF TELEGRAMS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that from the 1st JANUARY, 1924, further Notice, the Charge for Telegrams will be collected at the Rate of Dollars 0.37 to equal Franc 1.00. N. LUND, Acting Superintendent. Hongkong, 20th December, 1923. [1924]



PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on WEDNESDAY, the 27th day of Dec., 1923, at 3 p.m., at the Office of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the GOVERNOR of one Lot of CROWN LAND at Shaukiwan in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

Lot No.	Boundary Measurements.	Area in Acres.	Area in Sq. Yds.	Area in Sq. Ft.
1	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
2	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
3	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
4	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
5	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
6	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
7	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
8	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
9	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900
10	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1	4840	108900

"GLEN" LINE, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM UNITED KINGDOM, GENOA, PORT SAID & COLOMBO.

THE M.V. "GLENBEG"

having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns and/or extra-hazardous Godowns of The Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence, and/or from the wharves, delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 23rd Dec., 1923, at 5 p.m., will be subject to rent. All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns where they will be examined in the presence of Consignees by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas on 25th Dec., 1923, at 10 a.m. Claims against the steamer including those for cargo short delivered, must be presented on the special form provided, and must also be submitted within 30 days of arrival otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents. Hongkong, 18th December, 1923. [1923]

HUGO STINNES LINEN.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship "EMIL KIRDOFF"

having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's godown at Kowloon, where delivery can be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Optional cargo will be landed, unless notice has been given prior to steamer arrival. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after Tuesday, the 25th Inst., will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on Saturday, 23rd Inst., at 10 a.m., by our Surveyors Messrs. Goddard & Douglas.

All Claims must reach us before the Wednesday, the 2nd January, 1924, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the undersigned.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN & CO. Agents. Hongkong, 19th December, 1923. [1924]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

"STARVATION YIELDS."

If You Come to

THE CHINA INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED 2.

IN TIME

Put YOUR MONEY here.

See YOUR MONEY grow.

REMEMBER our Address is—

6, DUNDAS STREET, opposite to THE CHINA SPECIE BANK.

OUR INTEREST RATES:

For Fixed Deposits: 1 year ... @ 6 Per cent. 3 months ... @ 5 1/2 " 6 months ... @ 5 " 3 months ... @ 4 " For Current Account: ... @ 2 " For Special Deposit: ... Personal Arrangement. For Current Savings: ... @ 5 Per cent. For Fixed Savings: ... Regulations Obtainable.

CHIU CHU KEE, Manager.

HONGKONG PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE Members propose to give a CONCERT at the end of January or beginning of February, and it is hoped that the community will give its whole-hearted support to this effort to revive the Society which has been inactive for about 10 years. The Charge for Admission will be made as low as possible, and full particulars will be published in the Press later.

CHORAL SECTION. There are several vacancies for Soprano and Alto voices. Will those interested and willing to assist apply to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. A. E. EVLACHER, c/o Colonial Secretariat, from whom all further particulars can be obtained. Practices: MONDAYS, 5.15 P.M., at the CATER DRAY HALL.

ORCHESTRAL SECTION. There are vacancies for two Violinists. Applications to be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Colonial Secretariat. The First Orchestral Practice will take place in the Drill Hall, Volunteer Headquarters, Garden Road, at 5.15 P.M., on THURSDAY, December 28th. [1924]

SPECIAL NOTICE.

LANE, CRAWFORD, LTD.

JUST RECEIVED

SCOTCH SALMON ... per lb. \$1.50

CALIFORNIAN APPLES ... per 40 lb. box \$8.00

[1924]

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

PAYMENT OF FINAL DIVIDEND ON SHARES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1923.

THE Board having decided a FINAL DIVIDEND of 2 1/2% (Two and a half per cent.) free of Income Tax, for the year ending 30th June, 1923, holders of Bearer Shares and holders of Dividend Warrants received from London on account of Registered Shares, will be paid their dividends on presenting No. 21 Coupon of the Bearer Shares, and Dividend Warrants on Registered Shares, to either of the following Banks at Shanghai or Tientsin:—

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

The Russo-Asiatic Bank.

The Banque Belge Pour l'Etranger.

The payments will be made in either Dollars or Taels as the holder may wish, at the buying rate of exchange of the day.

P. C. TOUNG, Acting General Manager, KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION. [1921]

P. & O. S. N. CO.

STEAMERS FOR

STRAITS, COLOMBO, AUSTRALIA, BOMBAY, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS & LONDON.

Through Bills of Lading issued for Batavia, Persian Gulf, Continental, America, and South African Ports.

THE Steamship "SICILIA," Captain K. Jenkins, carrying His Majesty's Mails will be despatched from this Port on or about SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER, 1923, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports.

Silk and Valuable and Tea for Italy, France and London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Bombay into the Mail Steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London.

Parcels will be received at this Office until Noon, the day before sailing. The contents and values of all packages are required.

For further particulars apply to

MAACKINNON, MAACKENZIE & CO., Agents.

[1921]

THE CORONET.

2.50, 5.15 & 7.15.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS.

KOWLOON THEATRE.

9 P.M.

DOLLAR DANCE.

INTIMATIONS

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, Corner of BONHOMME ROAD & WESTERN ST.

THE New School Year begins JANUARY 2nd. Entrance Examination for New Boys, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2nd, at 9.30 A.M.

For Prospectus, for Boarders and Day-boys, apply—

THE WARDEN, ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, [1892]

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR begins on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1923.

There will be a small number of seats available, and new boys applying for admission should attend for examination on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th, at 9 A.M.

In the case of beginners in English (who should have done 3 years' Chinese) preference will be given to the sons and relatives of Old Boys.

The School Prospectus for 1923 may be obtained on application to the Clerk.

BERTRAM TANNER, Head Master. [1893]

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY GRADUATES.

WILL Graduates of Edinburgh University who are interested in the formation of an Association for furthering the interests of their Alma Mater and for promoting social intercourse amongst themselves, kindly communicate with the Undersigned:—

E. LAW, 6, Queen's Road, Central. [1924]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THE CAPTAIN and OWNERS of the S.S. "NASSA" disclaim all responsibility for any debts contracted by the crew of that vessel while in Hongkong.

[1918]

HONGKONG BOXING ASSOCIATION

10 ROUNDS CONTEST FOR THE MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE COLONY AND THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" BELT.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, at 8.15 P.M. at the THEATRE ROYAL.

MAIN EVENT:

10 ROUNDS CONTEST FOR THE MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE COLONY AND THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" BELT.

A. B. DUNAGAN, C. P. O. CALLAGHAN, H.M.S. Magnolia, H.M.S. Titania.

Two Lightweight Contests, One Featherweight Contest, One Welterweight Contest, One Middleweight Contest and One Bantamweight Contest, all of Six Rounds each.

Booking at MOTIVIS.

Members—20th December.

General Public—from December 21st.

USUAL PRICES.

NEXT TOURNAMENT—Saturday, January 27th at the THEATRE ROYAL.

A Band will play between the Events. [1915]

PARTICULARS

VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY.

No. 13, WING HING STREET, VICTORIA, HONGKONG.

To be Sold by Order of the Mortgagee.

PUBLIC AUCTION, IN ONE LOT.

On SATURDAY, 27th DECEMBER, 1923, at 3 O'CLOCK P.M.

By Messrs. LAMBERT BROTHERS, Auctioneers.

At their Office, DUNDAS STREET.

THE Property consists of First ALL THAT piece or parcel of ground situate at Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong and registered in the Land Office as SECTION A of INLAND LOT No. 2166, together with the messuages erected on the building thereon now known as No. 13, Wing Hing Street and Secondly ALL THAT strip of land at the rear of the said Section A of Inland Lot No. 2166 being a scumming lane. All of which premises are held for the residue of the term of 75 years from the 15th day of May, 1916, created by the Crown Lease thereof together with the valuable machinery now situate in or upon the said premises and at No. 1 Gordon Street.

Particulars and Conditions of sale may be obtained from Messrs. LAMBERT BROTHERS, Solicitors, 3, Des Voeux Road Central.

Messrs. LAMBERT BROTHERS, Auctioneers. [1927]

A: all times, but especially at

XMAS TIME

Place Your Orders with

HONGKONG CIGAR STORE.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

CIGARS, TOBACCO CIGARETTES and SMOKE.

REQUISITES. The best, generally at

ON SALE.

HONGKONG HANSARD REPORTS.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Revised by the Members.

PRICE.

DAILY PRESS OFFICE.

INTIMATION.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

invite their patrons to inspect

The Choicest selection of Perfumes from the best London, Paris and American Houses, including the latest and exclusive productions of

DU BARRY, COTY, GRENOLLE, HOUBIGANT, MORNAY, ROGER & GALLET, ATKINSON.

presented in Bottles, cases and packages of the most elegant and chic designs.

YE OLDE ENGLISH LAVENDER WATER and "CLOCHE D'ARGENT" EAU DE COLOGNE.

in elegant Silver Mounted Bottles.

MANICURE SETS, SILVER MOUNTED & PLATED FANCY GOODS, PERFUME BOTTLES, SPRAYS, &c. Elegant and useful articles in great variety.

CONFECIONERY & CHOCOLATES.

of the finest Quality and description in great variety from FULLER'S, FOSB' (Boston, U.S.A.) CADBURYS, &c., &c.

SPECIAL:

A Few very elegant gold mounted ladies' cigarette holders, of exquisite design.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

BIRTH.

DAVENPORT-BROWN—At Shamen, Canton, on December 17th, to Mr. and Mrs. DAVENPORT-BROWN—a daughter. [1924]

MARRIAGE.

BRITTON—On the 16th December, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, FRANKIE ANTHONY BRITTON to MURIEL ANNIE PERROTT SELLS. [1922]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, Des Voeux Rd., C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 21TH, 1923.

STRIKING A BLOW AT A BURDENSOME CUSTOM.

There are in all countries inherited popular customs and senseless usages which few people dare to disregard, however much they may secretly condemn them. The Chinese have not a few such customs, and it is interesting to learn that the elaborate celebration of the sixty-first birthday of Sir ROBERT HO TUNG (yesterday) was marked by a departure from a traditional Chinese custom that must have staggered the Chinese community by its boldness. "I am bent on striking a blow for the poor," wrote CHARLES DICKENS in planning one of his earlier novels, and the particular act by Sir ROBERT HO TUNG in connection with his birthday celebration to which we refer has been inspired by precisely the same purpose. According to an old custom, a Chinese host is expected to give two dinners to celebrate his marriage feast or birthday, but the host has to guess how many guests he may expect for the first dinner, for it is well known that the more the merrier is the Chinese custom. Sir ROBERT HO TUNG, in the Western custom, to accept or decline an invitation to dinner. The pointed out is thus compelling to provide many dinners which are not eaten, owing to the expense of his guests. How likely this custom might lead to waste is obvious. It is a custom religiously observed, however, in all ranks of society and imposes great hardship on wage earners who not infrequently run into debt owing to the double dinner that custom ordains in connection with wedding feasts. Persuaded of the inutility of perpetuating this custom, Sir ROBERT HO TUNG has ventured to give a lead on this occasion by breaking away from it and he believes that many of his Chinese friends will approve his action. Many of the Chinese social customs are excellent, but some of them might with great advantage be improved. Sir ROBERT HO TUNG's friends will understand that it is not from reasons of parsimony that he has been bold enough to make the innovation of giving only one dinner (which is to be held to-day). To himself the expense is not a consideration—as the announcement yesterday of a munificent gift of \$100,000 to provide an Industrial Home for poor children sufficiently attests—and it may be mentioned that he intends to devote the estimated cost of the first day's dinner, some \$3,000, to local charitable and educational purposes. He proposes to allocate the money in the following manner:—\$1,000 to the Swatow Relief Fund; \$500 to the Kwong Wah Hospital; \$500 to the Confucian Society; \$1,000 to the St. Stephen's Girls' College Building Fund. His proposal, he realises, may be subject to criticism, but he is convinced that, sooner or later, its wisdom will commend itself for adoption by Chinese public opinion. Old customs die hard, but when a custom manifestly becomes incompatible with the enlightenment of the times and has little or nothing to recommend it, bold advocates of desirable reform may count with confidence on some measures of success. We have referred to the ambition of DICKENS to strike a blow for the poor. He struck many, but one of the straightest blows he struck against custom was given in his will, and was aimed at the expensive funeral customs of his times, which imposed an exceedingly heavy burden on the poor. This is still a very serious problem in all European countries and in America, but the revolt against excessive display is steadily spreading. Similarly it may be a long time before the reform which Sir ROBERT HO TUNG is seeking to initiate gains wide acceptance among his fellow countrymen, but if it is steadily advocated by example in high places, as well as by precept, the common sense of the reform is bound to command growing recognition. Release from ancient customs which have become ill-suited to the times and an intolerable burden on all ranks of Society—and particularly upon those least able to support them—forms, in itself, an inestimable public benefaction.

Colonel C. W. DAVY, C.M.G., Chief Engineer of the Garrison is proceeding to the Philippine Islands on a visit.

A fatal accident occurred on the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer "Elang," during her trip from Shanghai to Hongkong. One of the Chinese boys fell down the hold and was killed.

The Medical Officer of Health's return, showing the number of cases of notifiable disease which occurred in the Colony during the week ending December 18th, was as follows:—Plague, 1 Chinese; diphtheria, 5 Chinese, 1 British; scarlet fever, 1 British; enteric fever, 3 Chinese; paratyphoid fever, 1 Russian; cerebro-spinal fever, 3 Chinese. There were also 3 Chinese cases of influenza.

A marriage that eclipsed that of the Boy Emperor in point of costliness was performed recently, says a Tientsin contemporary, when a niece of General Tiao Kun (a daughter of Tiao Ying) was married to a son of Mr. Liu Yu Cheng. The embroidery chair in which the bride rode was carried by thirty bearers and there were more than 100 tables and boxes containing valuable wedding gifts.

An old Chinese was charged on remand before Mr. Wood, at the Magistracy, yesterday, with stealing a piece of timber. The defendant, it appears, had seen service with the British Merchant Service during the war and was possessed of the General Service medal and the Marine medal. At the previous hearing his workship thought that some consideration should be shown to him and asked the Police to recommend the defendant to the Harbour Master. Yesterday it was stated that the Harbour Master had found him a job. The defendant was bound over for six months in a bond of \$50 and allowed to leave the Court.

When a coolie was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy, yesterday, with stealing a heavy piece of timber at Lai Chi Kok he gave as his excuse that he merely took it as he wanted to use it as a pillow. An Indian watchman proved the offence and the Magistrate fined defendant \$5 with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

In the address presented in Portuguese on Monday, to Monsignor Celso L. Constanti, Archbishop of Theodosia and First Apostolic Delegate to China, His Grace was besought to use his influence with the Papal See to obtain sanction for the establishment of a college for the higher education of Catholic boys. In a sympathetic reply His Grace admitted the importance of the question of the education of youth and promised to give his best attention to the request.

SANITARY BOARD MEETING.

DR. KOCH'S MOTION DEFERRED.

PROPOSED NEW BY-LAWS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS.

The Chairman of the Sanitary Board (Mr. G. R. Sayer) announced at the fortnightly meeting of the Board, yesterday afternoon, that Dr. W. V. M. Koch's motion, that the rural districts of the Colony be brought under the administration of the Sanitary Department, had been deferred to a subsequent meeting.

The only other business of importance before the meeting was the proposed adoption of by-laws regulating the importation of animals into the Colony.

In moving the adoption of the proposed by-laws, the CHAIRMAN said that he had circulated the proposals which dealt with the importation of animals and he noticed that the members agreed to their adoption. Before the motion was put to the meeting he would like to mention the main points of the proposals. They were general amendments relating to the importation, segregation, and general control of animals imported into the Colony. The amendments were the result of a promise made by him to the Board some months ago. The differences were: first, that it was proposed to include horses. Up to the present the existing regulations did not cover horses at all. They only covered cattle, swine and sheep. Although the importation of horses into the Colony was not large, a considerable amount of harm had been brought to the notice of the Board. There had been two separate outbreaks of glanders and it was clearly necessary that there should be some control over horses.

The actual proposals were that no animal (which included horses) should be imported without the permission of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. On importation each animal would be placed in quarantine. The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon would have power to keep any animal in quarantine, without any reason given, for a period of six months, if necessary. The actual period would depend on the nature of the proof given by the importer as to the freedom of the animal from disease.

In regard to horses, before a horse would be released from quarantine, it would have to undergo a mallein test, which was a test to show whether a horse had glanders or not. That test would be taken here unless a very satisfactory certificate from the country of origin was handed in to show that the horse had been successfully tested.

These new regulations would apply to all other animals, except in the case of animals brought in for immediate slaughter, so that the proposals would not affect the food supplies of the Colony in any way; although an animal, brought in for immediate slaughter, was liable to be segregated as was the present rule.

The CHAIRMAN then formally proposed the adoption of the by-laws.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Tso.

Dr. OZORIO said that he would like to ask two questions regarding the mallein test. Speaking generally, the ponies kept in Hongkong were valuable as forming part of race horse studs. He wished to know if the ponies would be affected by the test which they would have to undergo, and also whether the test would be made.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said that the mallein test would not affect the ponies seriously. The effects of the test soon passed off.

Replying to Dr. OZORIO's second point, the CHAIRMAN said that the question as to the actual fee had not been settled.

This was all the business before the meeting.</

CABLES.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH ROUTER'S AGENCY.]LAUSANNE CONFERENCE.
LORD CURZON EXPOUNDS HIS SCHEME.

LAUSANNE, December 18th.

Lord Curzon, in the course of expounding his scheme for the freedom of the Straits, which was submitted in printed form to the delegates at the Straits Commission, dwelt on the fact that many of the Turkish suggestions and objections as regards the original proposals had been met. Among others, the regulation limiting the tonnage of warships traversing the Straits had been altered to the advantage of the Black Sea.

Turkey would be allowed to send armed forces in transit across the demilitarised zones, of which the limits were reduced, and would be allowed to organise a system of observation and communication therein. Moreover, the Turkish fleet would retain the right to navigate in the Straits waters, and also to provide the necessary defence for the Sea of Marmora.

TURKISH SECURITY TO BE GUARANTEED.

LATER.

Lord Curzon drew attention to the clause in the Allied proposals based on the League of Nations decision regarding the Aegean Islands, guaranteeing the security of the demilitarised zones, including Constantinople, which, with Turkey included in the membership, should dispel any fears of a menace to Turkish security and sovereignty.

M. Barre declared that the Allies had resolved not to allow a restoration of the pre-war state of affairs.

THE TURKISH SCHEME.

The Turkish scheme for the control of the Straits allows the freedom of merchantmen unless Turkey is engaged in war, when neutrals will be permitted to pass on condition that they do not help the enemy. A limited number of foreign warships will be allowed to enter, but will not be permitted to anchor in the Straits, the Sea of Marmora, or Constantinople.

In wartime, when Turkey is neutral, the belligerent warships will not be permitted to enter until other belligerents have departed, while neutrals only will be permitted to pass when Turkey is engaged in war.

LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ENDORSES RECOMMENDATIONS.

WASHINGTON, December 18th.

The House of Representatives has passed the Naval Appropriation Bill, and endorsed the recommendations regarding international negotiations for limiting the construction of smaller craft.

THE RECENT RUBBER REGULATIONS.

ALLEGED BRITISH DISCRIMINATION.

WASHINGTON, December 18th.

In the course of a speech on the Ship Subsidy Bill, in the Senate, Senator Hansdell (Democrat) charged the British with having a big stick against America.

He instanced alleged British discrimination, including the recent rubber regulations for the shipment of raw rubber, which, he stated, had already doubled the cost of rubber.

MOOTED U.S. LOAN TO GERMANY.

REPARATIONS QUESTION MUST BE SETTLED FIRST.

NEW YORK, December 18th.

Mr. Pierpont Morgan has made a statement that at the conference on Saturday between them (the Cabinet) and the German Minister, Herr Wiedfeldt, the latter was informed that a loan could not be granted to Germany until the reparations question was settled.

OBITUARY.

SIR CARL MEYER.

LONDON, December 18th.

The death is announced of Sir Carl Meyer, Chairman of the Peking Syndicate.

(Sir Carl Meyer, 1st Bt., J. P. Esq., was Lieutenant of the City of London; Director of the National Bank of Egypt and Chairman of the London Committee of De Beers. Deceased was in his 71st year.)

EARLIER CABLES.
BELLICOSE TURKISH UTTERANCES.
CURSES FOR ALLIED POLITICIANS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 18th.

Speaking in the National Assembly at Angora, Reuf Bey, President of the Council of Ministers, said the Government was prepared to accept the Powers' standpoint with regard to the Straits provided the security of Constantinople and the Sea of Marmora was guaranteed. The Government would not accept anything resembling capitulations, and refused all liability for the costs of occupation. He asserted that the Powers, by occupying Constantinople and inciting the Greeks to land at Smyrna, had violated the armistice signed at Mudros. He alleged that Armenian labourers had been employed by the British in raping Turkish women at Gallipoli.

Reuf's reference to Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau was interrupted by a chorus of "May he be cursed!" He concluded by stating that the Government desired peace, but possessed an army second to none, which was prepared to carry on its duty.

RUSSIA AND THE DARDANELLES.

LAUSANNE, December 18th.

It is understood that the Russians are submitting to the Straits Commission a long scheme with regard to the Straits, practically amounting to a negation of the Allied scheme, which is being discussed by the Straits Commission this afternoon. The Russian scheme proposes, *inter alia*, a control commission with Germany on the board.

LORD CURZON'S HEATED PROTEST.

LAUSANNE, December 18th.

"In all conferences I have attended, never have I had such an experience," declared Lord Curzon in the course of a long and somewhat heated discussion by the Straits Commission evoked by the Russo-Turk proposal to submit to a new committee a fresh plan. Lord Curzon, M. Barre and Signor Corrodi said it was impossible at this stage to begin all over again. The world was waiting for some result.

The new Russian scheme provides for the closing of the Straits to foreign warships, though Turkey may in exceptional cases permit the passage of light warships, excluding submarines. Turkey is authorised to assure sovereignty by mining and other military and naval measures. An international board presided over by a Turk would be composed of representatives of the Black Sea States and Germany, the United States, France, Britain, Japan and Italy. "No sorties would agree to recognise the Black Sea as a closed sea of riparian States."

MONEY IN RUBBER.

DIRECTOR'S HUGE PERQUISITES.

LONDON, December 18th.

A meeting of shareholders in the Dunlop Rubber Company unanimously passed a resolution in favour of paying Sir Eric Geddes five thousand pounds sterling for his services as a director, also ten thousand sterling for his special services as a director during the twelve months ended September 30th. The chairman said the company had got rid of its pressing liabilities by discharging or funding them permanently, so that, given a reasonable trade revival, the position of the company would steadily strengthen.

LONDON EXCHANGE MARKET.

RELAPSE IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES.

LONDON, December 18th.

In London, foreign exchange opened with a decided recovery and later relapsed. The rumours of the American loan to Germany are not taken seriously. French francs touched 60.95 and closed at 62.75.

Belgian francs were 66.80 and 68.40. Marks ranged from 25,000 to 30,000. Sterling in New York was quoted at 4.66 to 4.64.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

ANTI-LABOUR COALITION.

MELBOURNE, December 18th.

The latest results of the Australian elections show that a recovery of the Hughes Nationalist party is almost hopeless. The party possibly will not number over 39 in the new House, where it is likely there will be a deadlock unless the anti-Labour forces fuse.

INDIAN WHEAT PROSPECTS.

BUMPER CROP PREDICTED.

DHAR, December 18th.

The early winter rains have greatly improved the crop prospects. A bumper wheat crop is expected. The outlook is the best since the record harvest of 1913. Prices are steadily falling, despite the export of wheat.

LOSS OF THE VINHLONG.

THE RESCUING DESTROYERS.

MANILA, December 18th.

It was the American destroyer *Bainbridge*, and the British destroyer *Sage* which rescued the passengers and crew of the *Vinhlong*.

LORD MARCUS BERESFORD'S DEATH.

DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES.

LONDON, December 18th.

The verdict on Lord Marcus Beresford was death from natural causes.

EUROPE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.
U.S. STATEMENTS REGARDED AS KITE-FLYING.

LONDON, December 18th.

Several papers relate the statements from Washington as regards a possible American intervention in the reparations question as probably the nature of kite-flying in order to attract American opinion before the White House commits itself to any decision.

The *New York Times* Washington correspondent says that Senator Borah has issued a statement making it clear that the irreconcilable Senators, whose views he represents, will oppose Government participation in an effort to adjust the reparations problem unless the Allies materially change their attitude towards Germany and put their own house in order. The *New York Times* says this statement shows the extreme difficulties facing the Government in carrying out its earnest desire to assist Europe.

BANDITRY IN AMERICA.

U.S. MINT ROBBED.

DENVER, December 18th.

Three bandits shot one of the guards transferring two hundred thousand dollars' worth of gold from the United States mint to the local branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, and escaped with the entire booty. The guard is not expected to recover.

A DRAMATIC COUP.

LIVER.

While the gold was being loaded into trucks in front of the mint a motor-car appeared and stopped. Masked bandits who were in it opened fire with repeating rifles. The guards returned the fire, but the robbers seized the bags of gold and escaped amid a shower of bullets. The wounded guard has since died.

FRENCH NAVAL ESTIMATES.

A POLICY OF ECONOMY.

PARIS, December 18th.

In the Chamber, in a debate on the naval estimates, M. Raberit, Minister of Marine, outlined the Government's policy, and declared that Britain, America, and Japan had been building while France let her navy dwindle. France needed a navy to defend her coasts and colonies, and must build ships and create an aerial fleet, but strict economy was essential. A total of 43 million francs had been saved by re-organising the navy, and the Government would spend the money on the navy and on the next financial year. He declared that France was the only naval power that had fallen below the 1914 level.

M.C.C. v. TRANSVAAL.

HOME TEAM'S GOOD SCORE.

JOHANNESBURG, December 18th.

The Transvaal knocked out 291, Catterall scoring 129 by very sound batting, his hits including a sixer and fourteen fours. This is the first century made against the M.C.C. in their present tour in South Africa.

M.C.C.'S AUSTRALASIAN TOUR.

AUCKLAND MATCH ABANDONED.

AUCKLAND, December 18th.

The postponed match began on Friday. The M.C.C. compiled 350, Titchmarsh contributing 154 and MacLaren 54. Auckland replied with 109 for the loss of five wickets. There was no play on the third day owing to rain, and the match was abandoned.

CALCUTTA SWEEP IN DANGER.

CURIOSITY REGARDING POLICE INACTIVITY.

The legends who gamble by means of lotteries are considerably exercised over the following question put at a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council on November 21st.

Mr. G. Barton asked: (a) Will the member in charge of the Police Department state whether he is aware that lotteries are conducted by various Clubs in Calcutta in connection with the Derby and the St. Leger races run in England; (b) have the Government any information as to the names and number of Clubs conducting such lotteries; (c) are Clubs which conduct such lotteries exempt from the operation of section 184A of the Indian Penal Code; (d) if so, what special conditions have been met by Clubs to obtain such exemption.

THE HON. MR. R. L. S. STEPHENSON REPLIED.

(a) to (d). "I am sure that many Clubs in Calcutta run sweepstakes for their members in connection with the Derby and the St. Leger races. The Government has no list of such Clubs. In no case have the Government authorised a lottery, and the Clubs in question are not exempt from the operation of Section 184A."

The Indian Penal Code provides that whoever keeps any office of the nature of a lottery, or who draws, or who is authorised by the Government, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine, or with both.

It is possible that the Government may now be inclined to take action but the question of stopping members of recognised Clubs is one difficult of solution.

"SQUEEZE" IN CHINA.
ITS WIDE RAMIFICATIONS.

The following article on a very interesting subject is taken from the *Peking and Kienlin Times*.

BUSINESS FIRST.

The new-comer to China, confronted with the hard fact of "squeeze" and its ramifications which meet him so soon after his arrival, is apt to be dumfounded. What good can there be, and how can any business be successfully accomplished, in a country where every transaction is tainted with irregular charges? He is even more mystified when he grasps that what is to his western ideas inherently rotten is here an established system, an universally understood and accepted custom. What he has to learn is that while in the East as in the West there is no sentiment in business, in the East there is no transaction which is not the East there is no transaction which is not the purchase of a coffin, or of a coffin of sweet potatoes—all is conducted on strictly commercial principles. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and anything done for anyone, even in the name of friendship, requires its appropriate emolument.

PERQUISITES.

The principle of commission on all the transactions of life once granted, the door is opened to vast opportunities of lucrative business. Our new-comer is shocked to find out (as soon he must) that any purchases made him by his household staff are charged up to him on the cent per cent principle. Every article of food bought for him by his cook is a source of handsome profit. Furthermore, much of that for which he has paid so highly passes into the stomachs of his underlings. They are supposed to "feed themselves." So they do—with the master's food. Considering that the cook in foreign employ draws liberal wages and that it is his duty therefore to serve his master's interests, the ordinary master is apt to be annoyed at these proceedings—the more so since he is quite powerless to prevent them—and to regard the people who treat him in this way as rogues and robbers.

THE CHINESE POINT OF VIEW.

The Chinese view the matter differently. From their standpoint a commission which is the universal custom, and is universally acquiesced in by all who have servants, has a legal sanction and servants hold themselves entitled to levy it. There is an implied contract in Chinese custom between the employer and his servants that he shall permit a profit on everything bought for him and allow them to collect a commission from the tradesmen with whom he deals—which he ultimately of course pays. In Peking servants will go to the shop in which articles have been purchased by their master, and demand a percentage, which is the usual rate as a legal right and shopkeepers never dare to refuse. This is the commission on articles not purchased through servants; on such things as are purchased through the household staff the commission is what the master is supposed to be able to stand, and depends upon his position and income as well as upon his generosity or amenability to pressure. This system, probably as ancient as China itself, is a result of the small and insufficient wages which were paid by Chinese masters until foreigners arrived to upset the market. Wages in Chinese houses were merely nominal and servants had to make what they could in other ways. Nowadays the wages in foreign houses at least are quite liberal, but the Chinese, like other humans, like to get it both ways, and though the wages have improved the squeeze remains.

AN UNAVOIDABLE TAX.

The foreigner in China must accept the position, or life will become intolerable for him and he had better quit the country. The Chinese are indelible only to a very limited degree and are not in the least inclined to alter their national customs to suit foreign convenience. Quick at picking up the external of foreign teaching, at heart they remain rooted in their ancient ways. Ever changing outwardly, inwardly always remaining the same, based on a moral system which, whatever we may think of it, has given them enormous national longevity. Chinese they are and Chinese they remain; and the western man who thinks he is going to bring them into line with his moral code, is only preparing for himself the fate inevitable to those who try to hustle the East.

AN UNIVERSAL SYSTEM.

The system of Commission or "squeeze" runs through the whole of Chinese life. It is confined to no one class or section of society but pervades all classes and is applied by everyone as occasion offers. Appointments obtained for a relative or friend are heavily taxed, probably the whole of the first month's pay, and thereafter the major portion of it, going to the interceder who procured the candidate's post. Foreigners who pay a salary to a second cook, amah, chauffeur or maid, are badly deceived if they think that anything but a small proportion of that salary goes to the nominal recipient. According to Chinese custom the bulk of it is annexed by the No. 1.

THE MINOR CIRCLES THE WORST.

While things are thus in the lower ranks of Chinese society the evil becomes infinitely magnified when we come to the official classes. Here we see the system carried to its extreme: squeeze, becomes extortion. The enormous fortunes amassed by eunuchs are an indication of the practices of the high officials. Of the taxes collected in various ways, regular or irregular, it is hardly too much to say that nothing at all is devoted to public purposes, except so far as official salaries are

such a purpose. All that is collected, in Peking or in the provinces, passes in one way or another into the pockets of functionaries, of whom in all directions there are teeming hordes, the vast majority doing nothing of the slightest value to the country. Nothing whatever is done for the people, and if anything is undertaken ostensibly for the public convenience, e.g. a loan or a railway, the moment the foreign control without which it is impossible to start such things is relaxed, it is at once turned into a source of profit not for the nation, but for certain individuals who have got hold of it. Every post that can be sold is sold. The high civil officials in power from the Prime Minister downwards, both in Peking and the provinces, are the nominees of some tuchun or other, and somehow the office has to be paid for. Official life is an industry, a business, a trade of exploiting an ignorant, industrious, and long-suffering people, by those who have sufficient capacity, push, energy, or luck—or have a relative who has some of these qualities—to get themselves into a position of power. Officials in China exist for their own benefit not for that of the people. Justice is delayed and denied to all—except those who are in a position to pay for it.

WHY THE SYSTEM CONTINUES.

Why does a system in which the rights of the many are so obviously subordinated to the selfish interests of the few continue to be endured? The reason appears to lie mainly in a Chinese mentality which it is impossible for the westerner to understand, and which enable the Chinese to support with patience wrongs which to the foreigner would be insupportable, and one must realise also the comparative unimportance of government in a country where each village manages its own affairs, and so long as it gets its daily food and is not too actively oppressed is little concerned with the life outside it. The huge mass of the population, in spite of the fact that nothing is done for it, and the governing class exists mainly to exploit it, continues to till its fields and carry on its daily life. The enormous machine known to the world as China creaks and groans. Break-down seems ever imminent. There is pitiful misery, filth, hunger, flood, drought, pestilence, brigandage, piracy. Nothing is done, except under foreign inspiration, to check or remedy natural disaster. Still, somehow or other, the mighty mass of humanity keeps on its way; feeds, works, lives, trades. Some day, one would think, it will awake to a realisation of the fact that things are not as they might be, and when that realisation comes trouble may be expected.

PHILOSOPHICAL FALLACIES.

Writers of the Bertrand Russell school regard the Chinese people as a nation possessing a civilisation, superior in some ways to that of the West who would do quite well—a few minor faults corrected—and perhaps give to the world a new civilisation free from western errors were they relieved from aggression and exploitation. They are wrong. The Chinese are not a nation. They are a mass of human beings of various qualities of the Chinese and that charm of manner which is such a conspicuous feature in their culture, give colour to this view. The Powers no doubt have often been aggressive, and there is much in Chinese civilisation from which the world might learn. The trouble is that those who have a deep and long acquaintance with the country are convinced that if China could be left entirely alone and stand apart from the progress of the world—which, of course, it cannot—it would simply sink into a welter of anarchy and confusion and the people would be the prey of military adventurers far more even than they are now. The plain truth is that foreigners just now, as for many years past, are the only protection the Chinese people have against tyranny from within. Aggression in China, such as it is—and it is to be remembered that it is mainly directed at the development of the country and carries a vast amount of philanthropy with it—is all in the long run to the benefit of the Chinese. As suits have certainly been made on China in the past and concessions wrung from her. The Chinese Government of former days wished to isolate itself, to cut off trade and intercourse with the outside world. The trade and intercourse were forced upon her. With what result? To the improvement and enrichment of the world generally, and more particularly to the advantage of those millions of Chinese who profit directly and indirectly from the foreign trade. The economical position of the Chinese people, mainly owing to the fact that they are quite unable to evolve a government of any efficiency, is very far from being what it ought to be. But who can doubt that it is immeasurably better than it was fifty years ago? The foreigner in China is not, as some of our enthusiasts would have us believe, a greedy monster preying on the Chinese people. He is merely the middle man linking up the trade between East and West. Such profits as he makes are infinitesimal compared with the advantages that trade brings to the Chinese people. The direct gifts of foreigners to the Chinese people are also far from inconsiderable: missionaries, schools, hospitals, railways, roads, engineers, foreign employees providing honest administration and expert guidance of all sorts; they may not be fully appreciated, but they are there and they have their value. The Chinese left to himself succumbs to a diabolical heritage of many woes, among which we may perhaps rate Over-population, Under-feeding, and Official Neglect as among the greatest. The foreigner cannot relieve the Chinese from these ills; if relief is ever to come it must come from the Chinese people themselves; but the foreigner undoubtedly does something towards mitigating them, and enabling them to be better and happier. The Government, trading, settling, and under foreign leadership, gave a word of advice, without which the whole structure of Chinese society might crumble away.

CONCLUSIONS.

While we are bound to conclude that there are customs in China which, from our point of view at any rate, might be changed for the better, it is not to be supposed that the Chinese people are in essentials worse than many of the other peoples on this globe. They certainly are a great people with many fine qualities. Their great misfortune is that they have not been able to evolve a capable ruling class. In many of the minor arts of life, farming, shopkeeping, etc., the Chinese has great skill. His defect is that he has no capacity for the management of big concerns. Regarding this country as a political entity its condition is simply deplorable. There is no law, no real sense, such courts as there are being corrupt in the extreme and while the police in some places are a useful force it can hardly be contended that on the whole they are a valuable adjunct to law and order. Speaking generally we imagine that in this vast land there is as little likelihood of the wrongdoer being punished if he is wrong as there is of the righteous being protected if he is weak. It is a land where chaos and confusion reign and where salvation, if it is to come at all, must come from the Chinese. Meanwhile the foreign friends of China can help in various ways and perhaps one of these ways is to be honest and, however unflattering it may be, to tell them the truth.

(Continued on foot of next column.)

FAR EASTERN CABLE NEWS.

[THROUGH ROUTER'S AGENCY.]

"THE NATIVE ILLS OF CHINA."
STRANGE AND CONFLICTING WESTERN INFLUENCES.

LONDON, December 18th.

Pointing out that the native ills of China are aggravated and augmented by the strange and conflicting influences of the Western world, *The Times*, in a leader commenting on its Peking correspondent's despatch dated on December 18th, asks whether the Western peoples, who bear some responsibility for the present state of China and for whom speedy recovery is a matter of great economic and political importance, must stand idle till the destructive process has worked itself out.

WASHINGTON POLICY SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

The article declares that the peril would be grave if disorders reached the point of provoking foreign intervention, in a form which would stimulate rivalry among the powers. It urges that the foundations of a reasonable policy towards China, which were framed at Washington, should not be allowed to remain a dead-letter.

STABLE GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE WITH HELP OF THE POWERS.

The article concludes by saying that the interested powers courageously applying serious thought to the problem, in order to frame a simple scheme of joint reconstruction, they could make stable Government possible, simultaneously healing half our own ills.

THE KIDNAPPED FOREIGNERS IN HONAN.

TWO FRENCH ENGINEERS STILL MISSING.

PEKING, December 19th.

While the Waichiaopu (Chinese Foreign Office) asserts that the two engineers employed on the French railway in Honan have been liberated, the French Legation is still unable to confirm the previous official reports.

CHINA'S PREMIER.

CHANG'S NOMINATION GOES TO THE SENATE.

PEKING, December 19th.

The House of Representatives yesterday notified the Senate of the result of the vote on Chang Shou Tseng's nomination as Premier, and requested the Senate to accept his nomination as soon as possible.

Wang Ching-ming, who continues to act as Speaker in the Senate, called on the President this morning, and it is understood that unless the Senate votes shortly, President Li Yuan Hung will issue a mandate instructing Chang Shou Tseng to take over the duties of Premier, pending the Senate's vote.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THREATEN TO STRIKE.

NO PAY, NO WORK.

PEKING, December 19th.

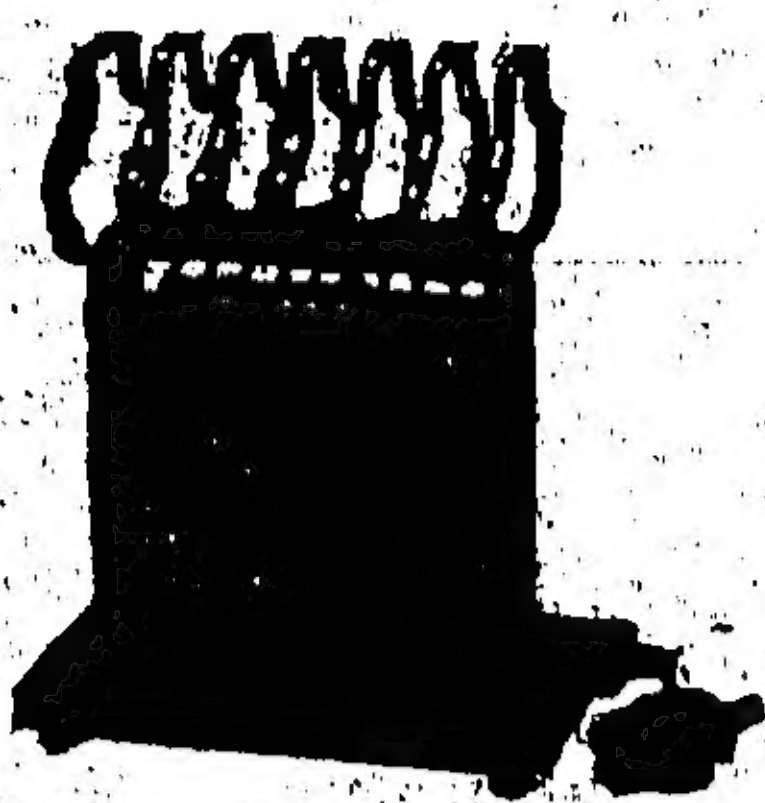
The staffs of the Ministry of Commerce and the General Staff threaten to strike unless their arrears of salary are paid.

"THE THREE MUSKETEERS."

After seeing Douglas Fairbanks' film version of "The Three Musketeers," at the Coronet one marvels that the vivid narrative of Alexandre Dumas, with its great wealth of incident and its intimate delineation of character, should have been so faithfully adapted for the screen. There have been one or two departures from the original story here and there, but Dumas himself would not have objected to them. Mr. Fairbanks himself, as the hot-headed, impulsive, chivalrous hero does some wonderful work and rare genius has been displayed in the allotment of the lesser roles.

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AT
LANE, CRAWFORD'S.

"SECTARIAN" BOOK. BIBLE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOLS.

The Appellate Court of San Francisco declared on November 1st that the King James (the Authorized) version of the Bible could not be used in the public schools of California as it was "a book of sectarian or denominational character within the meaning of the political code." The Constitution of the State of California provides that no sectarian doctrine shall be "taught or instruction therein be permitted directly or indirectly in any of the common schools of this State." The political code further lays it down: "It shall be the duty of the boards of school trustees to exclude from the schools all books of sectarian, partisan, or denominational character."

The suit was recently brought to prevent the trustees of the Selma High School from purchasing a dozen Bibles for the use of the classes. The Lower Court held that the trustees were within their rights in making the purchase, as the Authorized Version of the Bible was "the book of all Christians." This decision the Appellate Court over-ruled, declaring that "while Protestantism may not be a sect in the strict interpretation of the term, the Protestant Bible contains the precepts of many Protestant denominations, and denomination is merely another term for sect. The King James Bible having been adopted by the Protestants, their book is objectionable to those who do not follow that faith."

The decision—the first ever rendered in the United States on the subject—emphasizes the fact that other religious sects have their books, such as the Talmud and the Quran, and says that the Bible must be barred from the common schools because the teachers fail to consider it for its literary or historical value. —Times.

ACTRESS'S LOVE STORY.

Miss Caroline Little, formerly an American actress, has begun an action, in Paris, for damages for breach of contract against a "Prince of an illustrious family," whose name is not revealed (writes the Daily Telegraph's correspondent). Soon after leaving school the Prince met the actress by chance at a fashionable French seaside resort, and though she was some ten years his senior, became infatuated. After that summer they met again at the same place a year later, and so continued their liaison through several years. Just before the outbreak of the war, however, Miss Little received a farewell note from the Prince, in which he announced that, in spite of their deep love, their ways in life lay apart. He said, however, that in order to provide for her future he would give her, in addition to a lump sum of 200,000 francs, an allowance of 10,000 francs a month for one year, and thereafter 2,000 francs a month. This Prince then went on war service.

He married another woman with the approval of his family. After this it appears he forgot to keep his promise to Miss Little. Her lawyers claim that the Prince's offer to her constitutes a contract which he is bound to fulfil, but the defence is that as the promise and its origin in an alliance which the law could not recognise, it cannot have legal sanction. It was recently decided by the same court that co-habitation, for however long a period, conferred no rights of indemnity on either party to such an arrangement if it were broken. Counsel for Miss Little puts forward the argument that as people are held responsible for the smallest physical injury which they may cause to their neighbours, the law should afford equal protection to those whose lives are morally broken. The court, after hearing the arguments on both sides, has postponed its decision.

TEACHING OF ENGLISH.

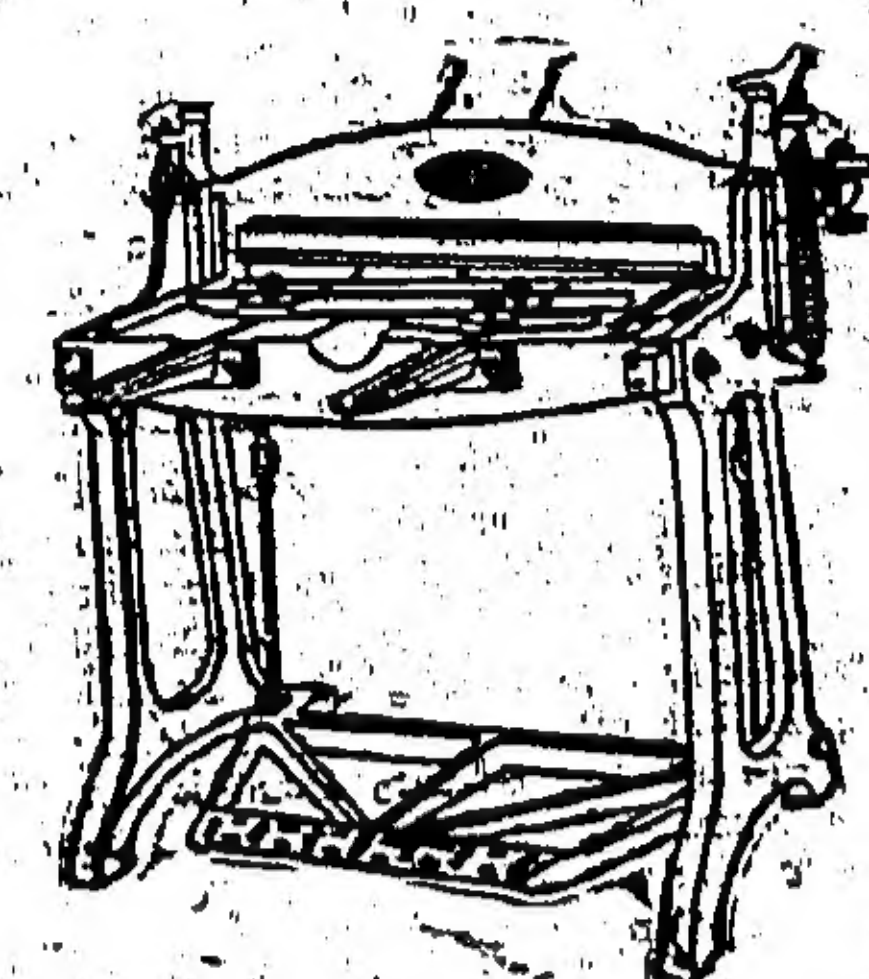
Some time ago, the President of the Board of Education appointed a Committee to inquire into the position of English in the educational system of England, and the results of the deliberations of the Committee and its findings were incorporated in a report which aroused widespread attention. The published copies were quickly absorbed, and it is now very difficult to secure one. On November 2nd, at Birkbeck College, a conference was organised by the London County Council, at which several speakers, well known in the educational world, gave their views upon the report. On its value, as a whole, all were agreed, and if there were differences of opinion at all they were merely on points of detail. Thus Sir Gregory Foster, Provost of University College, and Professor E. W. Chambers, Quain Professor of English, University College, totally disagreed with the chapter dealing with the honours degree at the Universities. But this was a minor point which in no way affected the general agreement of the very large audience.

Sir Cyril Jackson, chairman of the Education Committee of the L.C.C., who presided, emphasised the importance of teaching English in our schools on right lines, and Sir Henry Newbolt, chairman of the Departmental Committee which drew up the report, sketched the lines upon which the report was drawn up. It was with principles, he said, that the Committee had dealt, and not with details. They had come to a point when they might ask themselves whether the whole system of education in the country should not be changed. English must be the basis of our education, if only because it was the medium of communication between the teacher and child. He emphasised "the value of literature as the means of bringing people into touch with the highest thoughts of educated minds."

Miss M. D. Brock, headmistress of Mary Datchelor School, pleaded for more books in their schools, more quiet rooms for reading, more accommodation, and more staff with more leisure for conducting readings and debates.



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